



# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

April 2006



**Monitoring Plan:** Bob Gitzen is now on board and up to speed on the National Park Service I&M Program. He, along with Amy Symstad and Nels Troelstrup, recently participated in a sampling design workshop. The next step is to develop the sampling design for vegetation and water quality. In other words, we generally know “how” we will monitor those resources, the next step is to identify “where.” Our approach is to tackle these two “must-do” Vital Signs first before designing monitoring approaches for other potential Vital Signs.

**Inventory Vouchers:** It’s been about 2 years since we submitted inventory vouchers to the Bell Museum at the U. of Minnesota. I wish I could say they’re all prepared and catalogued, but that’s not the case. The fish and herps that were deposited have been prepared and catalogued, but a couple of the records provided by the Bell do not match our records; this is most likely because the Bell re-identified the specimen. This should be easy to reconcile. The mammals are more problematic. The Bell is only about 2/3rds of the way through the specimens we deposited. However, they have assured me that they will be done by mid-summer. Also, it appears that some of the mammal specimens have also been re-identified (the shrews are especially problematic to identify in the field). Hopefully a site visit in mid-summer can reconcile this and complete the project.

**Photos:** Amy Symstad found an online image database that includes historic photographs of some parks in the Network. Go to <http://libraryphoto.cr.usgs.gov/startlib1.htm> and click on the National Parks link. Hopefully, the I&M Program photo library will be online sometime this summer.

**Soil Inventory:** The following table came from Pete Biggam (but was too late to include in last month’s newsletter). Pete elaborated on the table with the following: “We are having the soils databases updated at THRO and combined into one legend; as it currently exists within 2 separate soil survey areas. We have yet to validate the soil database for WICA, but it is mapped. We will refresh the data for AGFO, JECA, MORU, SCBL, and WICA later this spring. The NRCS is preparing to update the area in and around BADL and we will be negotiating with them to perform an update of the park, perhaps as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY07.”

ParkCode	UnitName	Status
AGFO	Agate Fossil Beds National Monument	Complete
BADL	Badlands National Park	In Work
DETO	Devils Tower National Monument	Inactive
FOLA	Fort Laramie National Historic Site	In Work
FOUS	Fort Union Trading Post NHS	In Work
JECA	Jewel Cave National Monument	Complete
KNRI	Knife River Indian Villages N.H.S.	Inactive

MNRR	Missouri National Recreation River	Inactive
MORU	Mount Rushmore National Memorial	Complete
NIOB	Niobrara National Scenic River	Inactive
SCBL	Scotts Bluff National Monument	Complete
THRO	Theodore Roosevelt National Park	In Work
WICA	Wind Cave National Park	In Work

**Description**

Inventory products and funding are complete.

Inventory data and products are in work.

Not yet initiated by NPS Soil Inventory and Monitoring Program